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5 We Claim:

1. A method of reducing the mortality and morbidity in critically ill patients which comprises administering to the patients an effective amount of FGF-19.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from systemic inflammatory response syndrome.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from respiratory distress.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have acute lung injury.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have acute respiratory distress syndrome.
- 20 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.
7. The method of Claims 1 wherein the patients have sepsis.
- 25 8. The method of any one of Claims 1 through 7 wherein FGF-19 is administered via continuous infusion.
9. The method of any one of Claims 1 through 7 wherein FGF-19 is administered  
30 via a bolus injection.
10. The use of FGF-19 in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the mortality and morbidity in critically ill patients.

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- 5            11. The use of FGF-19 in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the mortality and morbidity associated with systemic respiratory response syndrome in critically ill patients.